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**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT  
OF WORKINGTON**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**PORT MEDICAL OFFICER**

**For the Year 1954**

BY

JAMES L. HUNTER,


M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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*Public Health Department,*

*Town Hall, Workington,*

*January, 1955.*



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*Public Health Department,*

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*January, 1955.*

MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON  
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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*Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR J. R. DAVIS

*(Workington Borough)*

COUNCILLOR E. BARRACLOUGH *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. DOGGART *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ A. H. DUNN *(Workington Borough)*

„ A. HALL *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ H. H. McMANUS *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. C. MOORE *(Workington Borough)*

|                   |
|-------------------|
| ALDERMAN J. POOLE |
|-------------------|

*(Workington Borough)*

Died October, 1954.

COUNCILLOR W. ROE *(Ennerdale R.D.C.)*

ALDERMAN S. WALKER *(Workington Borough)*

TOWN HALL,  
WORKINGTON,  
January, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Workington Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1954. There have been no infectious diseases during the year and the health of seamen, generally, has been good. Amenities on ships are improving, and it is pleasing to note the continued eradication of rodents and other vermin in vessels.

#### STAFF.

There have been no changes in the personnel of the Authority.

#### SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

| <i>Ships from.</i> | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Tonnage.</i> | <i>Number inspected.</i>                 |                                      | <i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
|                    |                |                 | <i>By the Medical Officer of Health.</i> | <i>By the Port Health Inspector.</i> |   |
| Foreign Ports      | 144            | 287,159         | 10                                       | 144                                  | —   |
| Coastwise          | 360            | 104,803         | —  | 263                                  | —   |
| Total              | 504            | 391,962         | 10                                       | 407                                  | —   |

#### CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

##### *Passenger Traffic.*

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

##### *Cargo Traffic.*

Imports amounted to 714,715 tons as compared with 694,589 tons during the previous year. Iron-ore (including manganese ore) was again the chief import, viz.:—

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Iron and Manganese Ores ..... | 651,168 tons. |
| Coking Coal .....             | 44,818 tons.  |
| Petrol .....                  | 14,549 tons.  |
| Bricks and Ganister .....     | 2,564 tons.   |
| Spent Oxide .....             | 855 tons.     |
| Ingot Moulds .....            | 761 tons.     |



Exports amounted to 135,766 tons as compared with 134,293 tons in 1953:—

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Steel .....         | 73,050 tons. |
| Coal .....          | 35,227 tons. |
| Coke .....          | 11,704 tons. |
| Pig Iron .....      | 3,608 tons.  |
| Ingot Moulds .....  | 3,223 tons.  |
| General Cargo ..... | 1,111 tons.  |
| Tar .....           | 6,110 tons.  |
| Pitch .....         | 1,203 tons.  |
| Petrol .....        | 225 tons.    |
| Magnesite .....     | 305 tons.    |

#### PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVED.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| India.                | Chittagon, Karachi,<br>Vizagapatam, Bombay,<br>Calcutta. |
| Sweden.               | Otterbacken, Lulea,<br>Helsinborg, Oxelosund.            |
| Algeria.              | Bona, Bougie, Algiers,<br>Port Romain.                   |
| Spain.                | Almeria, Hornillo,<br>Mazarron.                          |
| Norway.               | Kirkenes, Narvik.  |
| Spanish North Africa. | Melilla.   |
| Holland.              | Yuimiden.  |
| Egypt (Red Sea).      | Abu-Zenima.  |
| Portugal.             | Setubal.   |
| France.               | Brest.   |
| Russia (Black Sea).   | Poti.  |

Also numerous ports in England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State.

#### INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Vessels are supplied with water from hydrants on the dockside. The supply is the same as received by the Borough of Workington, and is regularly sampled for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels as to the source of the existing water supplies and the frequency of cleaning out of water tanks. Samples of water from five foreign-going vessels were submitted for bacteriological examination. Three were declared satisfactory and two contained faecal organisms.

The water tanks on five vessels were cleaned out.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND OTHER ILLNESSES.

All vessels were given a Clean Bill of Health so far as infectious diseases were concerned.

On nine foreign-going vessels sickness was reported by the respective Masters, and medical treatment was given for the following:—

|                       |   |                      |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Pneumonia.            | 1 | Removed to Hospital. |
| Appendicitis.         | 2 | Removed to Hospital. |
| Heart Disease.        | 1 | Removed to Hospital. |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage. | 1 | Removed to Hospital. |
| Otorrhoea.            | 1 |                      |
| Venereal Disease.     | 4 |                      |

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels regarding venereal diseases, and where necessary information cards are issued giving details of arrangements for seamen suffering from same to receive free confidential treatment.

Two notices were issued under the Parrots and Miscellaneous Birds (Prohibition of Importation) Order, 1953, not to remove birds from vessels.

During the year two contraventions of Regulation 18 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, were reported to the Authority, and warnings were issued in both instances.

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

All vessels are thoroughly searched for the presence of rats. Stores, provisions and equipment are turned. Test baits and traps are laid.

On nine vessels evidence of rats was discovered and immediate steps were taken to eradicate them. Sixteen black rats were caught and four submitted for plague examination proved negative. Rat proofing work was carried out on five vessels.

The dockside and buildings also receive periodical attention. A minor infestation in a cabin was successfully dealt with, and an infestation of mice in the dockside canteen was receiving attention at the year end.

During the year twenty-seven International Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued to foreign-going vessels following satisfactory inspections. Thirty-four Rodent Control Certificates were issued in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.

#### INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

| <i>Nature and Number<br/>of Inspections.</i> |     | <i>Notices served.</i> |               | <i>Result of serving Notices.</i>   |
|--|-----|------------------------|---------------|---|
|  |     | <i>Statutory.</i>      | <i>Other.</i> |   |
| British                                      | 356 | Nil                    | 48            | 2 vessels proceeding to dry dock.<br>3 vessels for attention next port.<br>Remainder carried out. |
| Foreign                                      | 101 | Nil                    | 10            | 2 vessels for attention next port.<br>Remainder carried out.                                      |
|  | 457 | Nil                    | 58            |   |

Fifty-eight notices were served covering the following defects, nuisances or conditions prejudicial to health:—

|  | <i>British.</i> | <i>Other<br/>Nationalities.</i> |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Water tanks to clean .....                       | 2               | 3                               |
| Leaking overhead decks .....                     | 2               | 1                               |
| Vegetable lockers to protect<br>and repair ..... | 2               | 3                               |
| Defective skylights .....                        | 1               | —                               |
| Defective ports .....                            | 5               | 1                               |
| Defective ventilators .....                      | 3               | 1                               |
| Leaking steam pipes .....                        | 1               | —                               |
| Insufficient water to toilets ...                | 2               | —                               |
| Defective sanitary fittings .....                | 9               | 4                               |



|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| Choked water closets .....                     | 9  | 2  |
| Dirty water closets .....                      | 3  | 3  |
| Vermin .....                                   | 3  | —  |
| Rat proofing work .....                        | 4  | 1  |
| Dirty beds and bedding .....                   | 11 | 2  |
| Dirty messrooms .....                          | 1  | 2  |
| Dirty washplaces .....                         | 2  | 1  |
| Dirty pantries, galleys or<br>storerooms ..... | 3  | 4  |
| Dirty crews' quarters .....                    | 6  | 4  |
| Choked scuppers and sinks ...                  | 14 | 5  |
|  | —  | —  |
|  | 83 | 37 |
|  | —  | —  |

The total number of vessels entering the Port during 1954 decreased by 29 as compared with the previous year, but the vessels generally were larger, viz.:—

| <i>Year.</i> | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Total<br/>Net Tonnage.</i> |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1951         | 445            | 271,770                       |
| 1952         | 491            | 320,710                       |
| 1953         | 533            | 344,134                       |
| 1954         | 504            | 391,962                       |

The nationalities of the vessels entering were:—

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| British .....     | 395 |
| Dutch .....       | 28  |
| Swedish .....     | 26  |
| Norwegian .....   | 20  |
| Costa Rican ..... | 11  |
| German .....      | 6   |
| Finnish .....     | 5   |
| Spanish .....     | 4   |
| Danish .....      | 2   |
| Egyptian .....    | 2   |
| Italian .....     | 2   |
| Portuguese .....  | 1   |
| Panamanian .....  | 1   |
| Turkish .....     | 1   |
|                   | —   |
|                   | 504 |

The foreshore under the jurisdiction of the Authority has been periodically inspected, and during the year the carcasses of three sheep were removed.

No foodstuffs have been imported.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Staff of the Port Health Authority whose assistance has ensured the smooth working of the various Regulations. I am also indebted to Mr. J. Z. Bridgewater, Clerk and Manager to the Workington Harbour and Dock Board, for supplying the figures relating to Inward and Outward Cargo traffic.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. HUNTER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Port Medical Officer.*



